

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/812,119

Examiner

James M. Hewitt

Applicant(s)

LIPSCOMB ET AL.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 3/16/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-15, 17-19, 21-27, 30 and 32 which will appear as claims 1-26 respectively when the patent issues.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

J. M. H.
JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Lazarus on 5/25/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

In paragraph [0020], line 3, the phrase "inner and outer" has been replaced with the phrase --outer and inner--.

In paragraph [0023], line 6, "38" has been replaced with --40--.

In paragraph [0023], line 7, each instance of "38" has been replaced with --40--.

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 5, --entirely-- has been inserted before "within".

In claim 1, line 14, the period has been replaced with the phrase --, and wherein the inner ferrule is coupled to the female coupler by folding a portion of the inner ferrule over a ridge located in the inner cavity of the female coupler in a manner that allows the inner ferrule to swivel within the female coupler about the ridge.--.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

In claim 3, line 1, "2" has been replaced with --1--.

In claim 11, line 2, "further" has been deleted.

In claim 14, line 2, "further" has been deleted.

Claim 16 has been canceled.

In claim 17, line 1, "16" has been replaced with --1--.

In claim 17, line 2, "comprise" has been replaced with --each comprises--.

Claim 20 has been canceled.

In claim 21, line 5, --entirely-- has been inserted before "within".

Claims 28 and 29 have been canceled.

In claim 30, line 5, --entirely-- has been inserted before "within".

In claim 30, line 6, "and" has been deleted.

In claim 30, line 8, "wherein" has been replaced with --providing--.

In claim 30, line 8, "comprises" has been replaced with --with--.

In claim 30, line 13, the period has been replaced with --; and--.

In claim 30, line 14, the phrase --coupling the inner ferrule to the female coupler by folding a portion of the inner ferrule over a ridge located in the inner cavity of the female coupler in a manner to allow the inner ferrule to swivel within the female coupler about the ridge-- has been inserted as a separate indented paragraph.

Claim 31 has been canceled.

In claim 32, line 1, "31" has been replaced with --30--.

Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, the apparatus as claimed in detail in claims 1 and 21 or the method as claimed in detail in claim 30.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art does not particularly teach or fairly suggest the limitations "a female coupler having an inner cavity and being configured to attach to the second hose in the inner cavity by way of a first ferrule assembly disposed entirely within the inner cavity" and "wherein the inner ferrule is coupled to the female coupler by folding a portion of the inner ferrule over a ridge located in the inner cavity of the female coupler in a manner that allows the inner ferrule to swivel within the female coupler about the ridge".

Regarding claim 21, the prior art does not particularly teach or fairly suggest the limitations "a female coupler having an inner cavity and being configured to attach to the second hose in the inner cavity by way of a first ferrule assembly disposed entirely within the inner cavity", "an inner ferrule positionable on an inside surface of the second hose and configured to rotatably couple with the female coupler so that the inner ferrule may swivel relative to the female coupler thereby enabling the female coupler to be swiveled about the second hose without rotating the second hose", and "an o-ring, wherein the inner cavity of the female coupler is configured to receive the o-ring to provide a seal between the outer ferrule, the inner ferrule, and the inner cavity of the female coupler".

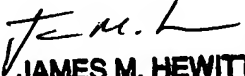
Regarding claim 30, the prior art does not particularly teach or fairly suggest the steps “providing a female coupler having an inner cavity and being configured to attach to the second hose in the inner cavity by way of a first ferrule assembly disposed entirely within the inner cavity” and “coupling the inner ferrule to the female coupler by folding a portion of the inner ferrule over a ridge located in the inner cavity of the female coupler in a manner to allow the inner ferrule to swivel within the female coupler about the ridge”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER